A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, April 5. 1707.

I Am upon an Argument to press us to a General Courtesie, and, as in the QUEEN's Speech, *to Acts of Kindness, and Respect towards one another.* Now, after all our Breaches, Feuds, Parties and furious Struggles seem to be come to a Period, and let the Subjects of this Exhortation be particular or general, Provincial or National, I shall endeavour to apply it, as I go on.

I have argued it as the only Way at last to drop the Remembrance of the Feud it self; for when the Cause dies, when the Rancour of the Mind decays, the Practice will decay, and in time the very Temper will die, and we shall be one Body again, as all good Men pray for.

But give me leave to enforce this with one Argument more——*Who is it we differ with?* And over whom should we triumph? Are they not our Brethren; However deluded, however drawn in? I am for no Triumphs, but those of Charity—— Those that will undeceive them in the Temper of those they differ'd with, and convince them, they were in the wrong.

What, tho' among them there are some hot-headed, wayward, awkward Dispositions, whose Minds are sowr'd, and their Hearts gangreen'd with the Inflammations of Passion and Envy?— *No matter for them*, they are conquer'd, they are reduc'd, Peace has subdu'd them, Union has reduc'd them, and their Power is broken—— Leave them to come to themselves, let them shave their Heads, and go into the cold Bath a little, and in Time they'll recover.

But pray, *says one*, what must we do with that Sort of People—— that will not be oblig'd, that are ever uneasie, and making us so——The obliging Carriage, you talk of,

of, will have no Effect on them; they are incapable of the common Impreſſions of other Men, they are neither to be won by Courteſie, engag'd by Love, ſilenc'd by Argument, nor mov'd by Perſwaſion, what muſt we do with them?

Why look ye, Gentlemen, premiſing firſt, that the Mirth, we will make with theſe, ſhall not at all interfere with the ſerious Advice to engage all that are in the leaſt to be prevail'd with, by the more Chriſtian Methods of Love, Charity, Kindneſs and Temper; I ſhall take the Freedom to divert you a little on that, and in order to it;

Shall I give you an odd Receipt for a new Compoſition, in order to the Illumination of ſuch People.

Take *the Marrow* of a *High-Flying* Speech, the Zeal of an *Occaſional Conformiſt*, that can *venture his Life for the Church of* England, and *the Eloquence* of an Orator for *Peace without Union*; of each a large Quantity, *if to be had*——— Calcine theſe in a Furnace, built out of the clear Profits of the *Mine Adventure*.

Then take the *Aſhes of theſe*, and mixing them with proper Vehicles for Vitrification, *you may perhaps* make a Pair of Spectacle Glaſſes for a *Squint-ey'd* Underſtanding.

If any People are incurable, that neither good Uſage, kind Treatment, the moſt obliging Behaviour can win, nor Time, Patience, and the Government's Moderation can cool; that nothing can make forget their Heats, no nor human Prudence moderate their Tempers, that reſolve to ruin the Nation, or be ruin'd themſelves, that will ſtill puſh on the fruitleſs Projects and dangerous *Experiments*, till at laſt they puſh on their own Fate, and pay dear for their Follies; if they will preach up the Church's Danger, when no body ſees it but themſelves; if they will amuſe the ignorant People with Fancies of Bondage, when they are but juſt going to be free.

Let ſuch put on the aforeſaid Spectacles, 'tis forty to one but they may illuminate them ſufficiently; and if they get up to the Top of ſome high Hill, they may chance to ſee, *being at a proper Diſtance*, all the reſt of the World laughing at them.

I know, ſome are of Opinion, theſe Sort of People are very neceſſary in a Nation, *eſpecially in our Time*, and that the only good they do, is to keep the World *Waking*: If that be true, ſo far as Security in all Caſes is Fatal, they may be of ſome Uſe in the World; but I am very poſitive they are of no Uſe at all to themſelves, and are in a Common-wealth only uſeful, juſt as Poiſons in Phyſick, complexly conſider'd, ſubordinate and entirely diſarm'd——But mortally contagious when predominate.

When I was laſt *up in the Moon*, I heard there of a certain Engine, which, *not being very well ſkill'd in their Language*, I call'd a *Cogitator* or *thinking Engine*; I have formerly given a Diſcription of this, in a Book call'd *the Conſolidator*, and therefore ſhall be very brief here———'Tis an Engine compos'd of Abundance of curious Parts, and is properly employ'd to *ſcrew a Man into himſelf*, that is, to reduce his wandring delirious Head to ſedate and regular Thinking.

I thought it very odd, I confeſs, *when firſt I began to ſtudy*, how a Man might be brought to Mathematical Thinking——— But above all, when I ſaw how the Screws and Joints of this famous Engine were wrought, how they carry'd all the Objects in direct Lines to their Underſtanding, how the Ideas form'd from thence muſt neceſſarily be *all the ſame*, and how it ſecur'd the Perſon from all the Flutterings of Fancy, and the Vapour of bewildred Imagination; you cannot but think, I was immediately reflecting, how uſeful ſuch an Engine would be for our modern Gentlemen, who are ſo extremely afflicted with the *thoughtleſs Evil*.

If any Man therefore, I ſay, puts in this Queſtion, *viz.* What muſt we do with theſe Incurables, theſe incorrigible *High-Flyers*, that will never be quiet, nor ever be anſwer'd, ſatisfy'd or oblig'd? My Advice ſhall be double.

Firſt, *to themſelves*. I cannot but recommend to them a Voyage *up to the Moon*, where they have been told, ſuch wonderful Helps are to be had, and where being once *ſcrew'd into themſelves* a little, and brought to Rights, they cannot but arrive to a higher Degree of *Cogitation*; for 'tis moſt certain,

that

that the only Capital Diſeaſe of a *High-Flyer*, is *Want of Thinking*.

Secondly, *to the reſt of the World.* Neglect them, *entirely neglect them*; be watchful againſt their Miſchief, but as to themſelves entirely neglect them. When one ſaw an old Man waſhing his Feet in cold Weather, and the good Women pitying him ——*No, no*, ſays he, if you will pity him, come away and take no Notice of him; and he'll ſoon leave dabbling in the Ice; I need not apply the Story, I'll purſue it farther hereafter.

MISCELLANEA.

I Am come now to the long expected Subject, and which I have been preſs'd often to ſpeak to, ſince the Parliament ſeem'd to enquire into this Matter, I mean the Frauds of Bankrupts.

I ſhall not enter into any thing now before the Houſe, the late Act for Bankrupts ſurrendring upon Oath has been abus'd by Knaves, *as they ſay*; for I do not hear of any Proof yet made, any Perjuries detected, or any Bankrupt proſecuted, other than by Clamour, Noiſe and the general Out-cry of thoſe, that find their Hands ty'd up a little from the common Ravages, they uſe to make upon diſtreſs'd Families.

But becauſe I am willing to gratifie their Clamours, as far as they can expect, or the Caſe will bear; I'll ſuppoſe, as many as they will, that Knaves and fraudulent Bankrupts are claiming, or have claim'd their Liberty by this Act, and what then? Therefore honeſt Men muſt be no more their Care, all the oppreſs'd Families, that were the true Subjects of the Nation's Compaſſion, muſt have no more of your Concern. Excellent State Logick this, and what are the Reaſons for this? The Pretences are, *for Reaſons I cannot call them*, ſuch as theſe.

1*ſt*. That when Bankrupts do ingenuouſly ſurrender their Effects to their Creditors, they are always kind to them.

I might allow ſome Weight to be in this, if I could not give a Cloud of Caſes, where Bankrupts have offer'd voluntary Surrenders of their Effects, and even the beſt Part of the Creditors themſelves have been ſatisfy'd of the Honeſty of the Surrender—— And yet the Obſtinacy of one angry revengeful Creditor, who wanted the Blood, not the Eſtate of the Bankrupt, has been the Ruin of his whole Eſtate, his whole Family; the Man has been driven to innumerable Diſtreſſes, made a Knave of in ſpite of honeſt Deſigns, and the reſt of the Creditors by this one furious unreaſonable Perſon have loſt their whole Debts.

I venture to ſay, let them reckon up their Numbers, and bring in the Liſts of Men honeſtly ſurrendring, reſtor'd to their Liberty by the Mercy and Tenderneſs of Creditors, and I'll bring them ten Examples of this Sort for every one of the other, and turn the whole Streſs of this Argument upon the Ballance.

To give an undeniable Teſtimony of this, I referr back to the Numbers of People deliver'd by the Act of Parliament in King *William*'s Reign for two third's in Number and Value, concluding the reſt of the Creditors to comply; in which it was frequent to ſee the merciful Creditor pleading to deliver the ruin'd Debtor, when the cruel Wretch, that had ſtarv'd him, and knew he had nothing left, puſh'd at his Deſtruction; a very good Story of which I ſhall give in my next.

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